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Area Wage Survey
Topeka, KS
August 1985

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
October 1985

This summary presents results of an August 1985 survey of occupational wages in the Topeka Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Jefferson, Osage, and Shawnee Counties. This is 1 of 99 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 71 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 61 establishments employing 20,624 workers was selected to represent 144 establishments employing 28,450 workers in the area. Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request. (See table 2 for further information on the scope of the survey.)

Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Topeka, KS, August 1985

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																						
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 12.50	12.50 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00
Secretaries	182	8.46	7.93	6.68– 9.50	-	-	-	-	1	6	23	22	15	26	13	20	10	11	3	3	4	7	7	4	5	1	1
Secretaries I	13	8.88	6.51	- -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-
Secretaries II	74	7.23	7.04	6.26– 7.95	-	-	-	-	1	4	20	11	10	10	6	8	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Secretaries III	49	8.39	7.80	7.40– 8.77	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	4	12	4	8	2	2	2	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-
Secretaries IV	41	10.23	9.62	8.79–11.48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	4	6	6	1	3	2	-	1	4	4	1	-
Stenographers	106	9.36	8.20	8.20–11.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	38	-	1	1	3	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typists	49	6.18	5.62	5.15– 6.06	-	-	-	1	22	7	10	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Typists I	26	5.81	5.69	5.15– 6.00	-	-	-	1	12	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Typists II	23	6.61	5.62	5.00– 7.48	-	-	-	-	10	3	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
File clerks	118	5.87	5.15	4.52– 6.06	-	2	25	25	20	14	12	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-
File clerks I	34	4.67	4.39	4.36– 4.77	-	2	19	8	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receptionists	8	5.37	5.16	- -	-	-	-	-	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switchboard operators	18	7.14	5.33	4.88–11.32	-	-	-	5	5	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators	181	7.85	6.72	5.72–10.78	-	-	-	4	31	20	11	32	22	7	8	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	38	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators I	95	6.21	5.90	5.34– 7.08	-	-	-	4	29	18	10	10	19	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators II	86	9.67	11.95	6.72–12.33	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	22	3	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	38	-	-	-	-
Computer operators	121	9.31	8.90	6.94–12.57	-	-	-	-	5	9	5	13	9	9	7	6	2	1	7	4	4	3	4	33	-	-	-
Computer operators I	26	6.91	6.63	5.66– 7.06	-	-	-	-	4	4	2	9	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators II	81	9.92	10.19	7.45–12.57	-	-	-	-	1	5	3	4	8	8	3	3	1	-	5	3	1	2	2	32	-	-	-
Computer operators III	14	10.25	10.25	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	-	-	-
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	201	12.21	13.52	11.42–13.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	-	8	-	18	56	-	-	-	82	21	-
Motor vehicle mechanics	26	12.63	13.52	11.72–13.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	13	5	-
General maintenance workers	82	9.11	8.99	7.00–10.39	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	10	7	5	1	10	16	-	8	-	-	-	-	14	1	2	-
Stationary engineers	31	13.66	14.13	13.66–14.13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	12	5
Truckdrivers	151	11.99	13.47	10.68–14.14	-	-	7	1	8	4	-	-	2	6	-	8	-	1	-	5	4	2	4	1	30	61	7
Truckdrivers, light truck	17	4.96	5.25	4.00– 5.75	-	-	7	1	4	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	81	13.25	13.47	13.47–14.66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	30	7
Shipping packers	49	7.13	7.46	7.46– 7.58	-	-	3	-	3	2	-	-	24	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Material handling laborers	240	8.19	8.11	6.13– 8.63	-	-	-	-	7	51	7	-	22	6	72	26	-	-	-	-	4	45	-	-	-	-	-
Forklift operators	169	10.62	11.71	10.02–11.99	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	29	-	3	-	-	6	34	2	-	59	14	-	18	-	-
Guards	24	7.67	7.13	4.00–11.79	3	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	1	1	-	-
Guards I	24	7.67	7.13	4.00–11.79	3	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	1	1	-	-
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	305	6.22	3.55	3.35–11.11	136	31	12	6	1	2	4	-	18	-	-	1	8	1	-	-	33	51	-	1	-	-	-

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Cost of living allowances and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

Table 2. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Topeka, KS,[1] August 1985

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments		
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey[4]		Studied
				Number	Percent	
All divisions	50	144	61	28,450	100	20,624
Manufacturing	50	31	16	8,378	29	6,869
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	113	45	20,072	71	13,755

[1] The Topeka Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through February 1974, consists of Jefferson, Osage, and Shawnee Counties. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis of comparison with other statistical series for the area to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used in classifying establishments by industry division.

[3] Excludes one or more service establishments for which data were not available. Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets of companies in such industries as trade, finance, auto repair service, and motion picture theaters (within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area or nonmetropolitan county) are considered as one establishment.

[4] Includes all workers in all establishments with total employment (within the area) at or above the minimum limitation.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; laundries and other personal services; automobile repair, rental, and parking; motion pictures; nonprofit membership organizations (excluding religious and charitable organizations); engineering and architectural services; and miscellaneous business services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; some services (notably educational institutions and medical services); and government operations.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1985-491-534/20102

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